

U.S. Serial No. 10/536,859
Attorney Docket No. 102416-108
2 of 3

REMARKS

The Examiner has required a restriction between the claims of Group I, claims 1-7, drawn to an integrated circuit device and the claims of Group II, claims 8-18, drawn to a method for singulating an integrated circuit.

Applicants elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-7 and traverse the Restriction Requirement. The claims of Group I are drawn to an integrated circuit device including a feature that is effective to seal moisture paths and relieve packaging stress. The claims of Group II are drawn to a method for manufacturing such a device. An examination of the claims of either group will require a search for the integrated circuit device with moisture sealing features such as a trough and a channel, accordingly the searches required for the two groups of claims are sufficiently interrelated that the Examiner would not be unduly burdened to consider both groups at the same time.

MPEP section 803 states that if a search and examination of all the claims of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner is encouraged to examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions. In the present situation, no serious burden upon the Examiner is seen by examining all of the claims of the present application.

It is respectfully solicited that the Examiner remove the Restriction Requirement and examine all claims on their merits. However, if the Restriction Requirement is repeated and made Final, Applicant reaffirms the election of the claims of Group I, claims 1-7.

U.S. Serial No. 10/536,859
Attorney Docket No. 102416-108
3 of 3

If a telephone conference would aid in the continued prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Please apply any credits or charge any deficiencies to our Deposit Account No. 23-1665.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael H. McKerreghan

Date: October 9, 2007

By: 

Gregory S. Rosenblatt
Registration No. 32,489
Attorney for Applicant

WIGGIN AND DANA LLP
One Century Tower
P. O. Box 1832
New Haven, CT 06508-1832
Telephone: (203) 498-4566
Facsimile: (203) 782-2889
E-mail: grosenblatt@wigin.com

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